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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

REPORT

22 AUG 1961

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Anti-Communist Literature in Poland, report, entitled Suppression of gives limited information on the subject.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY : Poland REPORT



SUBJECT : Suppression of Anti-Communist Literature in Poland DATE DISTR: 4 August 1961

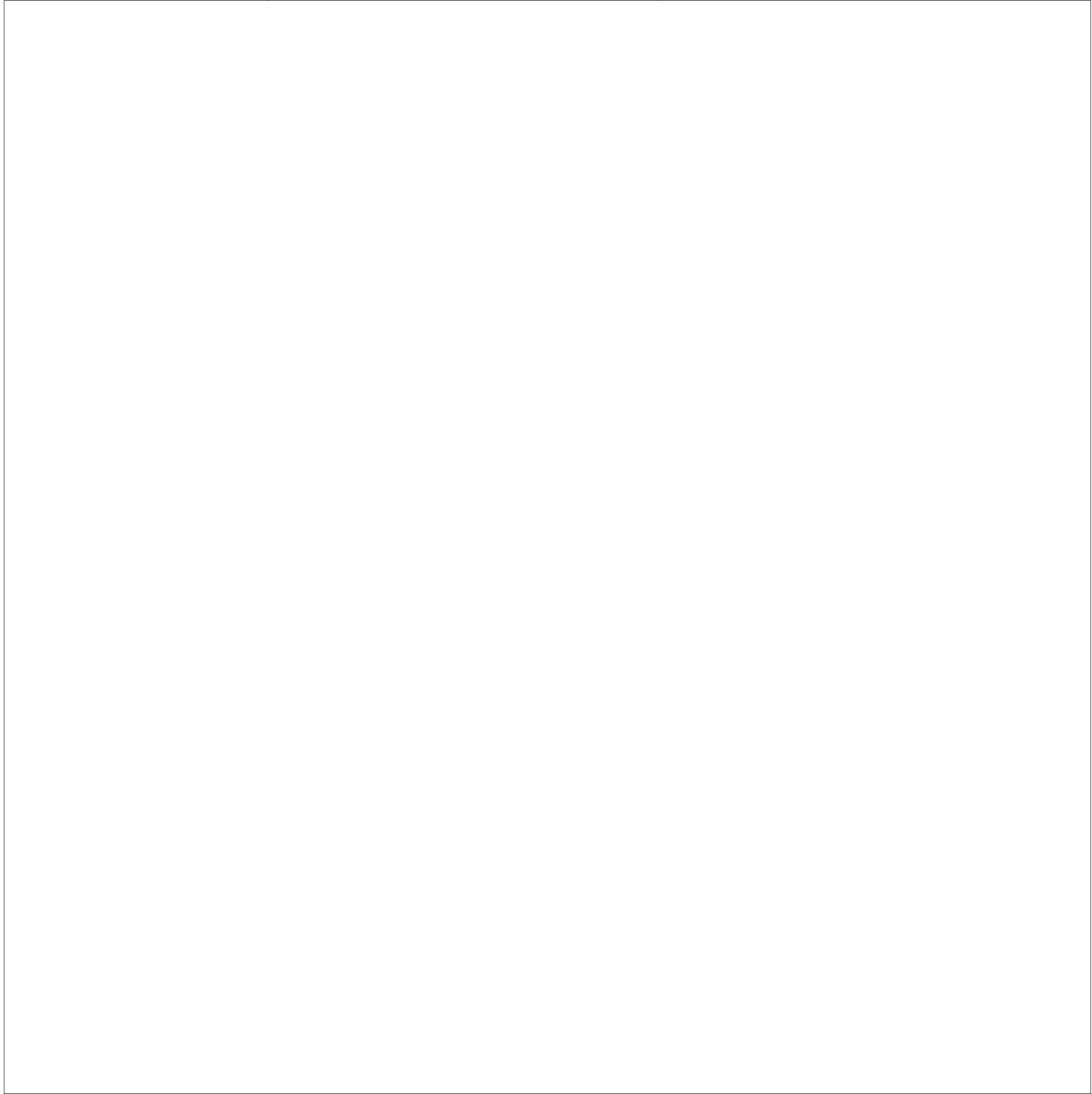
DATE OF INFORMATION



NO. OF PAGES: 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

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1. A copy, in English, of Milovan Djilas' book, The New Class, was brought to Poland in spring 1960. [redacted]
2. [redacted] asked the English-Polish translator [redacted] to translate it into Polish for [redacted] 50X1-HUM him. His desire for a translation had two facets: his English was not good enough for him to get all its fine points, and, being strongly anti-Communist, he planned to strike a small blow against Communism by distributing type-written copies of The New Class in Polish. [redacted] did not know how many persons [redacted] knew of the distribution plan, but [redacted] certainly revealed it to the translator and at least one friend and colleague. 50X1-HUM
3. Early in summer 1960, [redacted] arrested by the UB, suddenly and without any warning. He was tried, was found guilty of spreading anti-Communist propaganda, and was sentenced to five years in prison. Since the UB could not find his copy of The New Class [redacted] they made every effort to discover it. Finally, when he told them the translator had it, they arrested her also, as well as another person to whom [redacted] had shown the book. Since [redacted] had not yet begun the translation and the man had merely read the book, they were charged only with reading anti-Communist propaganda, and the charges of spreading it were dismissed in their case. The UB seized the book. 50X1-HUM
4. [redacted] possession of The New Class apparently came to the attention of the authorities almost immediately after he purchased it [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] The UB, however, suspecting that [redacted] was perhaps part of some anti-regime group, merely watched him for the first month after he returned to work [redacted] All his colleagues [redacted] sympathized with his family after his arrest. They regarded the five-year sentence as unjust because he had done nothing wrong, and believed it served only to ruin his career and bring hardship to his wife and two children. 50X1-HUM
5. Two [redacted] books eagerly sought in Poland were officially prohibited and hence impossible to find [redacted] One was Pasternak's Dr. Zhivago, the other the original version of Monte Cassino by the prominent Polish writer Melchior Wankowicz. The book, dealing with a particularly bloody battle waged and won by the Polish 2nd Corps in Italy during World War II, was first written and published in the West [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] the Polish Communist regime republished the book, but in a sharply censored version. [redacted] Wankowicz [redacted] was still writing critical books about the regime in Poland, but none of them was ever approved by the censor and hence nothing had appeared in print. 50X1-HUM

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